

RECENT LITERATURE.

May's 'Hawks of North America.'—Not since 1893, over forty years ago, have the Hawks of North America had special treatment such as is accorded them in the handsome volume¹ before us, although on every side and from almost every state in the Union pleas for their conservation and convincing evidence of the economic value of most of the species have appeared. While the destruction of these birds by farmers was perhaps never of major importance the efforts of Dr. Fisher and the Biological Survey had largely converted them to the protection of the majority of the species, when the appearance of so-called sportsmen in the picture threatened the extermination of all of our birds of prey. With the advent of game farms came the European idea of killing all "vermin" on the part of professional game keepers. Following this came "vermin hunts" on the part of shooters with nothing else to shoot and the concentration of marksmen at Hawk Mountain, Pa., Cape May, N. J. and other strategic points where migrating Hawks gather.

So strong a hold has this practice obtained on the State Game Commissions and individual sportsmen, fostered by many sportsmen's journals, that the task of rescuing the remainder of these beautiful birds is vastly greater than before. It is gratifying to find the National Association of Audubon Societies taking such a prominent part in this campaign and an evidence of the thoroughness of the reorganization recently effected through the installation of new blood in that organization.

Dr. May has given us an admirable résumé of the whole Hawk question with details on food and methods of identification. Then follows a systematic treatment of all of the species and subspecies of North American Hawks, Eagles and Vultures, with accounts of habits, appearance and distribution and little maps showing the breeding ranges at a glance. There is a brief foreword by Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, President Emeritus of the Association.

A notable feature of the book is the series of thirty-seven colored plates of the most important species by Major Allan Brooks and four of the under sides of all species in flying position by Roger T. Peterson. Anyone familiar with the cost of colored plates will realize what we owe to the Association for making it possible for one to obtain such a series, some of which are among the best of Brooks' paintings, for a merely nominal price, and in no way could the general public be better informed of the differences in our Hawk species and helped to easy identification.

Every fair-minded sportsman should obtain this book. As the advertisement says it is a "Book of Facts—Form your Opinion"; as to what that opinion will be there should be no doubt!

Every bird-lover and every collector of books on nature should also obtain a copy not only for his own enjoyment but to help repay the National Association for their outlay in the cause of our wards—the Hawks.—W. S.

Howard's 'The Nature of a Bird's World.'—This little book² is one which demands most careful reading and which furnishes much food for thought. In its study the ordinary observer of bird actions will be deeply impressed by the wide differences between his interpretations of what he sees and the interpretations of a

¹ The Hawks of North America their field identification and feeding habits. By John Bichard May. Illustrated by Allan Brooks and Roger Tory Peterson. Published by the National Association of Audubon Societies, 1775 Broadway, New York City. 1935 Pp. i-ix + 1-140. Price \$1.25.

² The Nature of a Bird's World. By Eliot Howard Cambridge at the University Press 1935. Pp. 1-102.